

Message Text

SECRET

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-07

NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 IO-14 EURE-00 SAJ-01 PRS-01

NEA-14 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 DRC-01 /106 W

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O P 071725Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4816

INFO SECDEF PRORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

USDOCOAIR SOUTH PRIORITY

S E C R E T ATHENS 5473

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR GR TU

SUBJ: UNILATERAL TURKISH ASSERTION OF AIR SPACE CONTROL

REF USDAO ANKARA IR 6 898 0226 74

1. DURING COURSE OF AUGUST 7 MEETING OF ASST. SEC.

HARTMAN WITH DEFMIN AVEROFF (WHICH BEING REPORTED IN SEPTEL BY HARTMAN), LATTER STATED THAT GOT HAD INFORMED GOG AT ABOUT 1800-1900 PREVIOUS DAY THAT LARGE SWATH OF AEGEAN THENCEFORTH COULD BE OVERFLOWN ONLY AFTER NOTIFICATION TO APPROPRIATE TURKISH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER. AVEROFF INDICATED AREA DELINEATED BY TURKS EXTENDED WEST AND SOUTH FROM TURKEY AND WOULD SKIRT LIMNOS, ANDROS, MYKONOS, AND CYPRUS, THUS EFFECTIVELY MAKING AIR TRAFFIC TO THESE ISLANDS (AND PRESUMABLY OTHERS) POSSIBLE ONLY UPON SUFFERANCE OF GOT. HE NOTED THAT TONE OF TURKISH NOTIFICATION WAS "SEVERE".

2. AVEROFF SPOKE CALMLY AND QUIETLY BUT STATED HIS

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CONCERN THAT IN CONTEXT OF JULY 22 INCIDENT, IN WHICH

HAF F-5 REPORTEDLY SHOT DOWN BY TAF F-102, IMPLICATION OF GOT NOTIFICATION WAS CLEARLY THAT TURKEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO ENFORCE ITS UNILATERAL ASSERTION OF RIGHT TO CONTROL AIR TRAFFIC IN AREAS WHERE GOG HAD LONG DONE SO. HE SAID THAT GOG WAS SENDING WORD BACK TO GOT THAT GOG DID NOT ACCEPT TURKISH ACTION. SINCE GREECE WAS NOT COMPLYING, HE FELT CONFRONTATION WAS POSSIBLE. HE WAS NOT RPT NOT ASKING USG ACTION BUT WISHED US TO BE AWARE OF ACTION THAT HE CONSIDERED A FURTHER INDICATION OF TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE.

3. COMMENT: NOT YET HAVING SEEN TEXT OF GOT COMMUNICATION, WE CANNOT ASCERTAIN WHETHER REPORTED TURKISH ACTION REPRESENTS ATTEMPT TO EXTEND UNILATERALLY ISTANBUL AND ANKARA FLIGHT INFORMATION REGIONS (FIR) OR IS EXTRAORDINARY ACTION TAKEN IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT GREEK-TURKISH TENSION OVER CYPRUS SITUATION. IN EITHER EVENT, RISKS ARE OBVIOUS AND WE WILL MONITOR SITUATION CLOSELY SO THAT, IF AERIAL CONFRONTATION BECOMES REAL POSSIBILITY, TIMELY ACTION CAN BE TAKEN TO HEAD IT OFF.

4. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION LOCALLY AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOONEST ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ADDRESSEES ABLE TO PROVIDE. DCM THIS AFTERNOON CHECKED WITH BRITISH EMBASSY AND FOUND THEY WERE NOT RPT NOT AWARE OF REPORTED TURKISH ACTION. BRITS WILL PASS US ANY INFO THEY DEVELOP ON THEIR OWN. TASCA

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NNN

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